



## Peaceful Guardians Project End-of-School Update

We've had a very positive launch to the Peaceful Guardians Project since January. And since the school year is ending, we wanted to offer a quick overview of our work so far. To date, we've served about 78 Kingston Police Officers and KCSD Resource Officers as well as 17 students from Bailey and Miller Middle Schools. In addition, PGP has been invited this summer to work with 120 rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders from the same middle schools on social/emotional development.



The sessions between police officers and students were very productive, with both officers and students saying they benefited greatly from the discussions. Through drumming, dancing and lots of pizza, the sessions were deeply personal at times and very instructive for both. They came away with a greater appreciation and respect for one another. Officers Rick Negron and Eric Van Allen were keynote speakers at both graduation exercises.



Next steps, we are working with all 17 of our young Guardians this summer to help them develop their life plans. This information will be shared with each student's assigned mentor who will be matched up in late July and early August, just in time for the start of the new school year. The next cohort of young Guardians will begin this September.

We will also be conducting a final training for our current group of mentors on July 23. Details coming soon.

We want to thank all of you for your generous support of our work.

With gratitude,

Lester Strong

Vanessa Lawson